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The Great Fire

Chillicothe, Ohio, 1852

by

B. F. Sproat

with

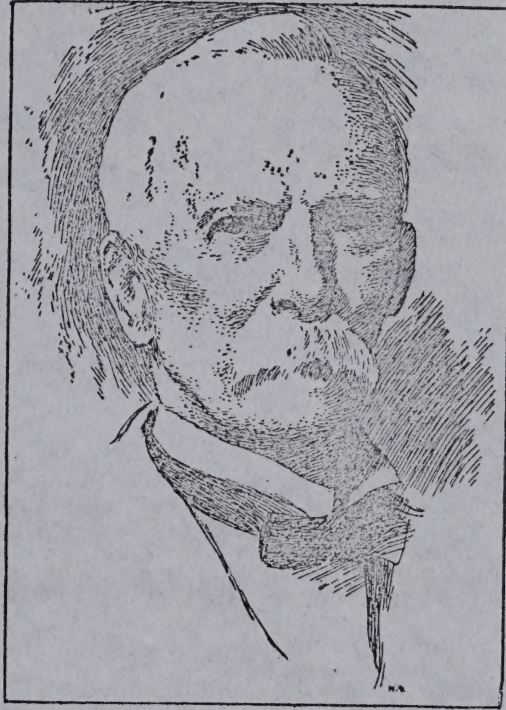
An History of The Chillicothe Fire Department,
1845 - 1880, by A. C. Ireland



Chillicothe, Ohio

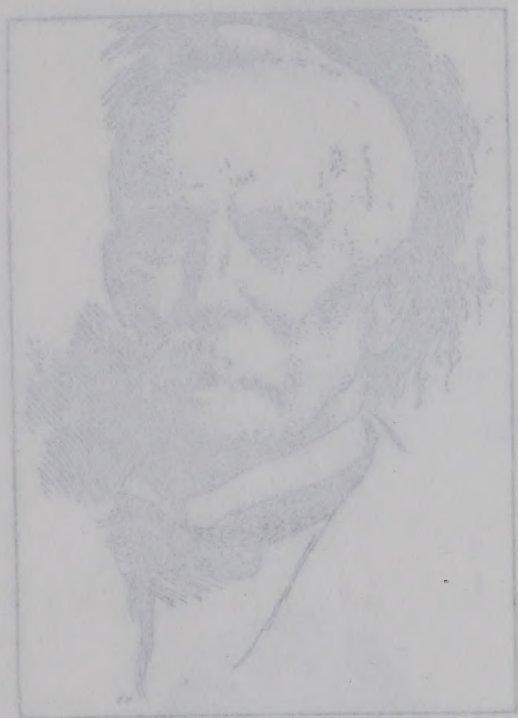
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BENJAMIN FRANKLIN SPROAT
(1847 - 1932)

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BENJAMIN FRANKLIN SPROAT
(1847-1933)

One thousand copies of this booklet,
designed by David Knowlton Webb,
were printed in linotype Benedictine
on Mayflower text paper, by
Fronri Printing Co., Chillicothe, Ohio

FOREWORD

The Great Fire at Chillicothe, on April 1st, 1852 (the irony of that date) must have made a deep impression on Benjamin Franklin Sproat (1847-1932), though but five years of age at the time, for he never lost interest in the subject and would forget business when afforded the opportunity of querying another eye-witness of the catastrophe. Statistical details were of little consequence to him, they could be found in any newspaper account of the Fire; he relentlessly pursued those phases of the subject we now term "human interest stories" . . . the human equation. With a twinkle in his eye he would admit: "I have interviewed nearly everybody that I could hear of that had seen the fire and was old enough at the time of the fire to be weaned." Yet, he had the precision of the skilled historian, discounting the fantasies of childhood memories, wary of hearsay evidence. His paper was first read at a meeting of the Sunset Club in 1916, and, in its present form, presented at an assembly of the Ross County Historical Society on April 12, 1928.

Alphonso C. Ireland (1817-1895) went to sea at the age of twenty-five and came to Chillicothe three years later. The "Commodore's" sketch of the Chillicothe Fire Department reflects the man; his "true kindliness, humor, bluff frankness, jovial wit and sturdy manliness." It is invaluable at this date for its precise description of organizations and equipment. It errs only in its too subjective treatment of his own, and favorite, company, the "Reliance" . . . his pride and loyalty are pardonable.

The Great Fire of 1852 looms in local history as an ominous example of the fatal consequence of inadequate and inefficient fire protection. It might have been tragic. Had it occurred

at night, in the residential areas, lives as well as Chillicothe's priceless architectural heritage would have been lost. But it did destroy the business section of the city and sapped the commercial vitality of Chillicothe for decades.

Eugene D. Rigney, President,
The Ross County Historical Society.



The portrait of B. F. Sproat by Noel Sickles is used through the courtesy of Chillicothe Newspapers, Inc. The original water-color of the Tiffin and "Phoenix, No. 4" houses is in the collection of the Public Library at Chillicothe and is reproduced with the permission of the Librarian, Mr. Burton E. Stevenson.



The Great Fire

The year 1852 stands out prominently in the history of Chillicothe. In that year occurred the opening of railroad travel, the introduction of gas, the tearing down of the old State House, the building of the Mountain House, the first balloon ascension, visits from Henry Clay and General Winfield Scott, and also the coldest weather ever recorded in Chillicothe up to that time. Twenty-six and one half degrees below zero at five a. m. Tuesday, January 20, was reported by A. G. Thurman. He says, "The night is said and truly, no doubt, to have been the coldest ever known here. The mercury has never been lower than 18 here so far as known" and he winds up the entry with "and two young fools have just driven by sleigh-riding." But what was of more importance than any of these was the Big Fire.

The description of the fire as published in the papers of that day tells where the fire started, its course, list of persons burned out, amount of loss and insurance and very little else. There is no personal touch, apparently nothing happened to anybody except that he got burned out and lost so much and that was the end of it. It is to supply this omission of individual experience that at this late day I have interviewed quite a number of old citizens.

Very soon after I began my series of interviews, I was rejoiced to get the story of one who was present at almost the very beginning of the conflagration. This was John H. West, living for many years near Kingston. We will let him tell his own story: "I was 27 years old at the time of the fire and had a blacksmith shop on Walnut street at the corner of the alley between Water and Second streets, where Bob Blackburn kept for so many years.

"I did the iron work on wagons and John Wurster did the wood work in his shop on West Water, a few doors east of High. I had just finished a wagon by putting in the last pin and started to dinner, my home being on West Main street. I left one man, the father of George Fels, in charge of the shop

and had gotten only as far as Second street when I heard the alarm of fire behind me and ran back.

"The back part of my shop was within six feet of John Watt's carpenter shop where the fire broke out. His shop was on the rear end of the lot where Mrs. Romain Stafford lived (121 W. Second St.). Watt had six or seven employees, and all had gone to dinner, excepting one man. The stove was in the middle of the room and this man put an armful of shavings into it, which, when they caught fire, blew open the door of the stove, throwing burning embers on the floor which was littered with other shavings. The man had only time to run for his life.

"My shop caught fire from a window in the east wall of Watt's shop and was the second building on fire.

"There were nearly a dozen horses in the back part, some already shod. My man turned them all loose and none was burned although the shed was on fire before all got away. When I reached the shop a few other men had arrived and helped me to run the wagon I had just finished across the street. We saved most of the tools, too. Then the Reliance engine came. After looking at the fire at various places, I went down to Lansing's corner and while standing there, I observed a curl of flame starting outside of a window of the Odd Fellow's room, just above the drug store (S. E. corner Paint and Second Sts.). The door of the room was locked and there was apparently no way of reaching the flame, but I picked up a half brick, aimed carefully and it struck the blaze and extinguished it." Truly a new way of fighting fire.

The second building to catch fire was the Clinton House stable (S. W. corner Water and Walnut Sts.) and Mr. Martin Kramer was there at the time and can tell something of it.

"I was about 16 years old and was in the employ of J. Robinson who was running the Clinton House then. When the alarm of fire was given, I ran to the stable and helped get the horses out and turned them loose on Walnut street. None burned, but a great many chickens burned in the coops to the west of the stable, as did the shedding on that side of the yard. The stable was up the alley a short distance. And on the corner of the alley (86 N. Walnut St.) was a house occupied by

one of the hostlers. Between this house and the hotel was a gateway to the yard where the teams were driven.

"There were many horses there as the railroad was not yet finished and almost all traveling was done by horse-power. Watt was getting out flooring at the time of the fire. The stove that caused the trouble was a large one, three or four feet long."

We can even have the story of the last person to visit the Watt shop before the fire started.

Mr. Louis Thomas says: "We lived then on the Cincinnati pike and when I came from school at noon, mother told me to take the hand-wagon and get a load of shavings. I went to Watt's shop and found but one man there and he invited me to help myself. I gathered them from the floor and filled my wagon and started up the alley, but had gotten but a short distance away when the fire broke out and I saw smoke coming out of the big doors and windows.

"Just then the German ("Phoenix"—No. 4) Fire Company's hose cart came tearing down the alley. My wagon was in their way and a fireman grabbed it and pitched it over the fence into the Clinton House yard. I went home crying and informed my mother, who told me to go back and get the wagon. I went and got the iron wheels. The rest had burned by that time. I did not go straight back home then, as there was too much to see.

"Among other things there were big lumps of meat lying around like boulders and I noticed running down the alley, just west of the Schutte house (151 W. Second St.) quite a stream of melted lard and grease."

A queer sort of alley this, for 61 years later the Scioto River was to rush through it, drowning a man on its way at that very spot and years before the fire it was the bed of another stream, Deer Creek, on whose banks played the children of Ohio's first governor.

The Clinton House itself was the next to go and a short description of it may not be amiss. Mrs. Tritscheller, who lived near it most of her life, remembered well the occupants at that time. She says that the main entrance to the Old Clinton House was on Walnut street. On the corner (S. W. corner Water and Walnut Sts.) was Hotsenpiller and Turner's Dry

Goods Store. R. G. Dun was one of the clerks in this store. Later he moved to New York City and established the Dun's Commercial Agency. Next west was the Hotel Reading Room, then Allen and Evan's Hardware store, then A. and J. Rhoads' grocery.

Then came Waddell's Fine Grocery Store. Later Waddell moved to Greenfield. Then came Marfield's Dry Goods store, next was Philip Klein's confectionery, then a clothing house. Then came the entrance to the upper story of the hotel, a large room where dances were held. It was a four-story building. The Madeira hotel which burned the same afternoon, was a two-story building (N. E. corner Second and Paint Sts.).

The west wall of the hotel had no windows, so it acted as a fire wall and the conflagration reached no farther west on that side of the street. The next house was used by Mr. Cain, the soap manufacturer, Dr. Jonathan Miesse was one of those who helped save this house by standing on the roof and pouring water.

Mrs. Mary McNeilis was almost 22 years old at the time of the fire and was living at the house of her father, James Dickson, Race street. On seeing the clouds of smoke, she seized one of the fire buckets and started up town, but was met by her brother, Hugh, coming back who told her that she would probably have use for the bucket at home, which proved to be the case.

When the Dicksons saw that their house would probably catch fire from falling cinders, they took off all the doors and shutters to save them. They all burned, but the house itself was saved by the exertions of the whole family. The Dicksons were coopers and had a large number of hogsheads on hand; they placed them under the eaves and the four sons poured the water, pumped by the women of the family, on the roof. As it ran back into the hogsheads it was used over and over again.

When the fire broke out, Miss Dickson was preparing for a wedding, which she expected to attend that night, that of Dave Gessler, a tinner at Albert Billeeson's. However the ceremony was postponed, as the houses of both the bride and groom

were burned with all their wedding clothes and even the marriage license.

A tenant of Mr. Dickson living nearby was Joseph Hegler, who had been married only the Sunday before. On the day of the fire, Mrs. Hegler was in the country and when her husband saw embers falling thick on their home, he rushed inside, thinking, no doubt, that he would like to save what his wife would value most. His eyes fell on the gorgeous wedding bonnet and he hesitated no longer, but seizing it ran outside the house. He was dismayed to find the cinders falling everywhere. Then he caught sight of the rain barrel under the spout. He put the bonnet inside and pushed it under the water. However, the house did not burn.

His bride came home next morning and missed her precious bridal bonnet, but was relieved when Mr. Hegler told her it was safe. When he fished it out of the black water all covered with cinders, you can imagine the thanks he got.

Across the street from the Dickson home lived Mrs. Stall, and when the neighbors expecting her home to burn, moved out her household goods, they failed to notice a baby asleep in a cradle with high sides and a lot of furniture piled on it. The baby was not missed for a couple of hours, Mrs. Stall thinking that someone had taken it over to Mrs. Dickson's. Search was made and the baby, who later became Mrs. William Gallivan, and lived on East Main street, was found entirely unhurt under a large pile of household goods.

Henry Fox said that at their house they did the proper way. His mother stood on the roof and poured the water that his father brought. At nearly every other place the women did the hard work, pumping and carrying water.

Mr. George Perkins was good enough to write for me his recollection of the "Big Fire." "I was a very small boy at the time, but remember distinctly the excitement and terror of the people of Chillicothe on that day. I lived with my uncle on Main street, east of the canal. The water had been 'let out' and we youngsters were busy catching craw-tads in the canal-bed, when the alarm of fire was given. I ran home and watched the great black clouds of smoke that hung over the town. The people were running up town and crying 'Fire! Fire!'. The engines were manned but could not reach water. The engine 'Rescue' rolled down the river bank into the 'old bed' of the

river, while the 'Reliance' was abandoned and burned on Water street, near Walnut. I ventured to the corner of Main and Paint streets.

"Looking up Paint a wall of flame from Second to Water streets filled the street. The wind was a gale and the sheet of flame was horizontal. It seemed to me a solid block of fire. Word soon came that McDougal's house on East Water street, between Mulberry and Hickory, was burning. The wind had carried burning shingles that far. A servant girl at our house ran screaming out of town spreading the alarm and walking as far as Kingston.

"Farmers hitched up their teams and drove to town to help. I remember wagon after wagon, horses in full gallop, coming down Main street, books and papers scattering to the breeze in all directions. We then heard that McVey's house on East Water street was on fire. My uncle ran over to help them, grabbed the pet wooly dog, put him under an iron kettle near the barn, forgot all about him and next day found roast dog. We fully expected to be all burned out and were glad when the fire subsided."

Mr. J. W. Mackey, a cousin of Captain John Raper, was a boy of 15 at the time of the fire and has a vivid recollection of this exciting day, of people rushing wildly through the streets, of men as well as children crying, of farmers hurrying in from the country, some exhausted from having run a long distance.

One thing that seems to have impressed itself on his mind was the vast number of rats fleeing before the fire. They were not the large Norway rats of today, but were a species known as Blue rats, only about half as large as those we have today. They were special pests about wells. There were few cisterns then, but most of the water was obtained from wells or rain barrels.

Mr. Mackey says that he saw free whiskey passed around among firemen and men working in the stores and warehouses. He noticed at least 300 partially burned hams in the streets, which women and children were allowed to take home a few days after the fire.

Many of the people who have told me what they remember of the fire were mere children at the time and I have found it well to make allowances for their age, and for the excitement

then prevailing. Some of them say that they saw all of the fire and that it was awful, etc., but you cannot pin them down to hard facts.

John Hilliard could only recall one actual fact. He saw a man hurrying along with four umbrellas under his arm and they were on fire but the man didn't know it. Another boy, John Staggers, hurried down from Mrs. Pierson's school, and when he got as far as old Mr. Limle's store on West Water street, he was fascinated by the sight of his father on the roof pouring water.

The latter looked around and saw John, and though a mighty busy man, he took time to come down and give him a hard spanking and told him to go straight home. John claims to have seen the whole conflagration but the one circumstance standing out in his memory of that fateful day is the paddling he got.

On another occasion I remarked to a man: "Mr. S. of course you are too young to know anything about the Big Fire yourself, but perhaps your father being prominent in business then, may have told you something of it?" "Yes, indeed, he did. He told me that when the fire broke out he swam the canal—" "Swam the canal—why, there wasn't any water in the canal that day." "There wasn't? Oh, that was it. I knew he told me something about the canal."

And I could but observe that in the narratives of the younger girls, the frightfulness of their surroundings did not altogether distract their attention from the dinner tables of their neighbors. Mrs. Sallie Franklin observed that their next door neighbor, Mrs. Parker Gardner, had her table all set and ready for the feast in the middle of the street, and Mrs. Anna Mackey goes her one better, for she not only saw a dining table in the next square all ready for dinner, in the open street, but she observed that they had mashed potatoes for dinner!

Mr. James Armstrong told me that his sister, Mary Jane, was so badly rattled when the burning cinders began to fall thick and fast on her dwelling that, in her despair, she announced that she would marry the man who would save her house. A bystander climbed to the roof, doused the burning embers and the building did not burn, but he did not obtain the promised re-

ward as the lady weakened when he descended to terra-firma and she saw that he was a negro. She later on married Tom Keller the blacksmith.

A resident of Hocking County, living on Black Jack Creek, 30 miles northeast of Chillicothe, said her first knowledge of the fire was when she saw burned pieces of paper, account books, etc., flying over her farm. Mr. John Thornburg told me that the wind that day blew every bit of roofing from the barns and sheds of the Basil Umsted place near Hopetown, and that great numbers of pigeons flew there and beyond, driven from town by the fire.

John McDougal was a boy of 11 and remembers the burning of their house (159 E. Water St.). The goods were brought out and put in the yard but they burned anyhow. He said what stood out plainer in his memory than anything else about the big fire was the great number of hats, umbrellas, pieces of dry goods etc. blown through the air by the high wind. Their family moved out to his grandfather's place, across the river, after they were burned out. For weeks afterwards, these things would be picked up on the side of Mt. Logan and adjacent hills.

The fire was a hot one as well as a big one. The Scioto Gazette of May 24 says: "This morning, 54 days since our great conflagration, a fire company was engaged in quenching some smouldering flames in the burnt district." I heard my father say that when they cleared away the bricks and mortar from around his safe, several weeks after the fire, it was still red hot. Everything inside of it was burned.

Among the hundreds of losers on this calamitous day, one of the most prominent was Mr. John Marfield. His full warehouse and store were burned. His insurance expired at almost the minute the fire began. Mr. Marfield was in the east at the time, but on his return, he began at once to make preparations to rebuild.

The father of John F. and Charles Phillips was another who suffered in the same way. He had gone to renew his insurance the day before the fire, but the agent was busy and requested him to call again. Mr. James McGinniss, the hat merchant, also lost through lapse of insurance.

Mrs. Stone said that her father, John R. Allston, wholesale grocer, bought his sugar, rice and molasses in New Orleans.

He had just purchased a two year supply, which had been brought to Portsmouth by boat. It had been waggoned from there to Chillicothe, the water being out of the canal.

The fire came the day after the last load was received and nearly everything was burned. Another hard luck story is that of William Welsh.

He had bought the old Presbyterian church on the canal bank, East Second street, and had used it for his foundry for a number of years, but concluded to tear it down and build a new one. With this in view, the last load of castings had been taken out the morning of the fire and put into his store room on North Paint street (No. 75). The whole building was packed and everything burned that afternoon, and the old place, so soon to be torn down was left untouched by the fire.

Another dwelling on which the insurance had expired only a few days before was E. P. Kendrick's house (69 W. Second St.) It was one of the finest in town, with four imposing columns reaching to the roof. Miss Annie Gaston, a granddaughter, said that at the time of the fire he was away, but her aunt, Mrs. Patton, was at home and went on the roof from which place she had a fine view of Water street in flames.

Mrs. Patton did not notice that the fire had crept by way of the sheds to the back of the house, or that some over-zealous passerby had torn the front door from its hinges, creating a draft that soon had the lower floor in a blaze.

Mr. J. H. Bennett crossed the street and called to her to come on down, but she answered that there was too much to see from up there. However, she came down quickly enough when he told her that the house was already burning inside. Mr. Wm. B. Mills and Mr. H. N. Reid helped carry some of the things out, the latter being bowled over and down the front steps by someone carrying a mattress.

Some families jumped from the frying pan into the fire. The Welsh family on West Second street, convinced that their house was going to burn, moved everything into the street except the wardrobe which was too large to get out. They sent the silver and the children down to the house of their Aunt Jane Ross, which was destroyed a little later. Their own dwelling was not burned and their goods were moved back that night.

The children were hustled from one place to another and their anxious father, still in his fireman's togs, had a hard time locating them. He found them that evening at Mr. Dun's house on Fourth street.

Mr. Jacob Dump, 20 years old, rode in with others from the country at 4 o'clock in the afternoon. He says: "When we got to the river bridge, we saw a lot of men pouring water on the roofs, for the cinders were falling fast. Burning shingles, sometimes several nailed together, were flying past overhead and the sycamore trees were on fire on the north bank of the river. We saw a dozen or more of them burning.

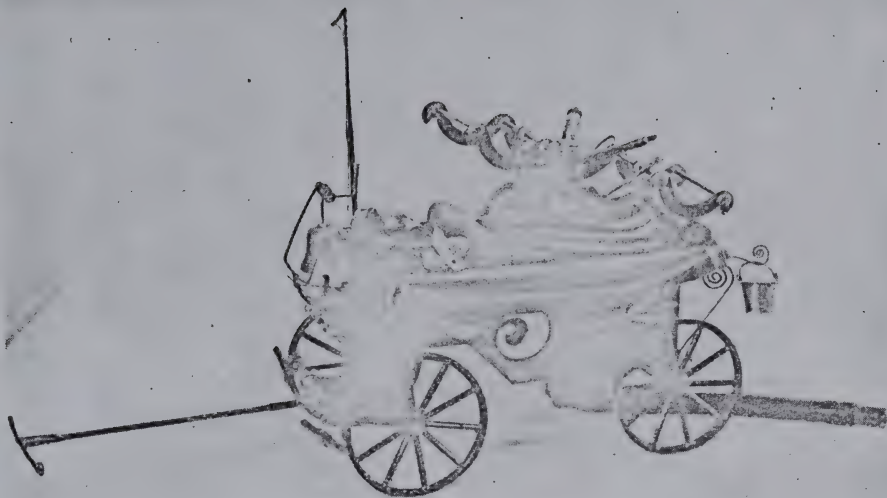
"Everywhere were men on roofs, pouring water. When we got up in town we saw all sorts of goods, sugar, coffee, hams and shoulders filling the streets and the bed of the canal. There was any amount of tobacco and cigars scattered all over North Paint street. It seemed as though everybody was drunk. The meat in the canal was piled nearly as high as a one-story house in some places.

"We went up that night and saw the fire engine 'Rescue' lying just below the tow path. It had been abandoned on account of the heat. Some one near the Clinton House, whose place had been saved, rolled a barrel of whiskey into the street, knocked in the head and invited everybody to help themselves. They sure did. A farmer had taken a wagon load of silks, dress goods, etc., worth three or four hundred dollars and had gotten some distance on his way home when a detail of citizens went after him and forced him to drive back and disgorge."

With tens of thousands of dollars worth of goods lying exposed in the streets, canal bed and vacant lots and confusion in every quarter, it is not to be wondered that there was much looting and thieving. After the fire, committees were appointed to search the houses of suspected persons and the stolen goods when found, were taken to the courthouse yard, where the owners claimed them.

Joe Smith says that when fire came near them, his father, a shoemaker, hurled all the rolls of sole leather (each roll contained ten sides) into the canal. Some of these were stolen and put into the river, from which place they were later fished out and sold back to Mr. Smith.

He recognized the leather as his own, but being a quiet,



Model of *Reliance* Fire Engine.



Original Dedication Plate from the rebuilt *Reliance* Engine.



Model of *Reliance* Hose Cart.

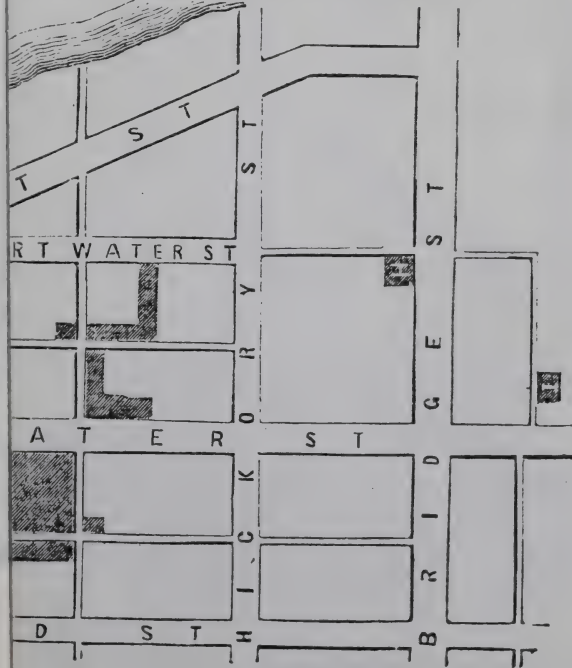
A MAP

OF THE DISTRICT BURNED BY THE

CHILlicothe FIRE, APRIL 1, 1852

APRIL 1, 1852

WITH A COMPLETE LIST OF THE BUILDINGS DESTROYED, AND THE NAMES OF OWNERS AND OCCUPANTS.



of buildings extending to the corner of Second street, and occupied by himself, Smith, Watwick, Ellis, White and May.

East side, between Water and Second.—Mech's stone factory. McLamb's house, occupied by four families—*a*—Two small frames occupied as dwellings—owned by N. Sawyer. Campbell's warehouse.

Bridge Street.

West side, between Water and Market streets. H J Merritt's dwelling, housing top factory.

Second Street.

North side, between Walnut and Paint.—All back buildings from Walnut street, east. D E P. Kendrick's dwelling—*a*—Wm. Silvey's dwelling, owned by Seney—*a*—Ross' Block, occupied by the dry goods stores of Smart & McFarland, T. Woodrow and A. Spence, Dr. Morris' drug store, Valley Bank, Wilson's shoe store and manufactory, Dr. Baird's dentist offices, W. Y. Gilmore and family, Bancroft's studio, Jeffries' daguerrean gallery, and A. Yapple's law office.

Between Paint and Mulberry.—Two small frames, one occupied by Hayes' barber shop, the other unoccupied. S. D. Campbell's dwelling. Wm. Ross' dwelling. I. Masonic Hall—*a*—J. McGinnis' dwelling.—C. A. Woodbridge's dwelling. Three small frames, be-

store, corner.

Between Paint and Mulberry.—J. May's coffee-house, corner. J. K. Allison, wholesale grocer. C. Bogen-shutz, grocer. Campbell's ware house, not occupied.—Two dwellings owned by Mrs. Flyder. John Frauts's tavern. Gwin's dwelling and stone factory. Three old buildings owned by McLamb, occupied by several families—*a*—McCoy's warehouse, filled with corn owned by George Wood. A brick dwelling, containing several families. Haskin's steam planing mill and shop. Railroad shop, owned by Sawyer. A building owned by Scholderer and Wolf, occupied as a Railroad office and dwelling. Mrs. Maden's house, occupied by two families. Biney's grocery, house owned by Hitchens. Hitchens's dwelling, corner.

Between Mulberry and Hickory.—Brown's house, corner, occupied by two families. Deser's dwelling. Wm. H. Taylor's house, occupied by a family. McVey's dwelling. Dietz's dwelling and cooper shop. Hitchen's dwelling—*a*

On the alley between Water and Short Water streets the stables of Kichenlaub, Belleison, Bauman, Sholderer, Johnson, Litters and Marsh.

Short Water Street.

South side between Mulberry and Hickory.—T. Marsh's dwelling, cooper shop, including all buildings on his lot.

K A small two story brick building attached to the residence of Wm. Ross, the only house of any kind not burned in that square.

C Reliance Company's Engine.

* Bridges burned. † Boats burned.

‡ The abbreviation —*a*— where it occurs in the list, denotes *alley*.

Contemporary Map of the District burned in the Great Fire, Chillicothe, Ohio, April 1, 1852.

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A MAP

OF THE DISTRICT BURNED BY THE

THE GREAT FIRE IN CHILLICOOTHE, OHIO

APRIL 1, 1852.

WITH A COMPLETE LIST OF THE BUILDINGS DESTROYED, AND THE NAMES OF OWNERS AND OCCUPANTS.

ENGRAVED BY N. H. TAYLOR—PUBLISHED BY WILLIARD G. DAY.



Walnut Street.

West side, between Water and Second.—A John Watt's carpenter shop, where the fire originated, on the alley; also nearly every stable between Walnut street and the alley running north and south. Six small buildings, belonging to Col. Swearingen and occupied by Huffagle, Dr. Huasey, Cook and others. Small brick dwelling near the Clinton House.

East side, between Water and Second.—Bowditch's chair shop, on corner, was torn down. A. Roads dwelling, owned by Judge Orr. Bacon's Livery stable, owned by Hillhouse; horses and carriages saved. Hoffman's cabinet shop. Ross' barber shop, owned by Hillhouse. Part of same building occupied by a family.

Paint Street.

East side, between Second and Water streets.—E Madeira House, occupied as a hotel by Col. Miller; the Post Office, and Connor's restaurant—basement; owned by Col. Madeira. Woodbridge's iron store, house owned by Pearson. Welsh's stove and tin establishment. Denning & Campbell's hardware store. P. & S. D. Campbell's dry goods store—a Norton's variety store. Pearson's saddle and harness shop, building owned by A. Ewing, Sr. Sproat's drug store. Maule & Co.'s clothing store; second story occupied by the *Chillicothe Advertiser*.—Commercial Row, occupied by Phillips' grocery store, McVey's grocery store, McCornick's cigar factory, and Gill and Williams' tin and stove store.

West side, between Second and Water streets.—C. J. Miller & Co.'s dry goods store, Wm. Miller's dry goods store—building owned by V. W. Ross. Bennett & Bro.'s dry goods store—building owned by J. & H. McCandburgh. Schutte's hardware store—building owned by Mrs. Carson. Pratt's jewelry store and dwelling. Douglas, Waddle & Shull's wholesale dry goods store. Wm. McKell's queens ware and glass store. Douglas & Son's dry goods store—building owned by W. H. Douglas—a T. Carson's dry goods store—building owned by J. S. Atwood, the back part being occupied as dwelling by G. E. Gill. McClintock's dry goods store, John Peegre's saddle shop—building owned by McClintock. Wm. Carson's dry goods store, and Fairbank's tailor shop—building owned by the heirs of the late A. Swift. O. T. Reeves' dry goods store. The telegraph office, C. J. Phillips' tailor shop, and Ringson's clothing store and dwelling—building owned by Wm. K. Bond. A room not occupied, Hamilton's meat shop, and H. Thompson's tailor shop, buildings owned by Hon. Wm. Allen.

Mulberry Street.

West side, between Market and Water.—a Mrs. Phillips' house, occupied by J. Haynes. Large frame house occupied by J. Stelker as grocery and dwelling. John Berklin's whitesmith shop.

West side, between Water and Second.—G. Hitchen's blacksmith shop. Iceley's dwelling—a Dr. J. Moore's row of buildings extending to the corner of Second street, and occupied by himself, Smith, Watwick, Ellis, White and May.

East side, between Water and Second.—Merch's stone factory. McLandburgh's house, occupied by four families—a Two small frames occupied as dwellings—owned by N. Sawyer. Campbell's warehouse.

Bridge Street.

West side, between Water and Market streets. H J Merritt's dwelling, housing 1000 people.

Second Street.

North side, between Walnut and Paint.—All back buildings from Walnut street, east. D. E. P. Kendrick's dwelling—a Wm. Silvey's dwelling, owned by Seney—Ross' Block, occupied by the dry goods stores of Smith & McFarland, T. Woodrow, A. Spence, Dr. Morris' drug store, Valley Bank, Wilson's shoe store and manufactory, Dr. Bahd's dentist office, W. Y. Gilmore and family, Bancroft's studio, Jeffries' daguerrean gallery, and A. Yapple's law office.

Between Paint and Mulberry.—Two small frames, one occupied by Hawes' barber shop, the other unoccupied. S. D. Campbell's dwelling. Wm. Ross' dwelling. L. Masonic Hall—a J. McGinnis' dwelling—a C. A. Woodbridge's dwelling. Three small frames, be-

longing to the estate of R. Douglas, occupied by families. Kirsch's tavern, Eichenlaub and Welsh's dwellings, owned by Dr. Moore.

On the alley between Second and Water streets, the stables of Cook, Howard, Hamilton, Launah and Heidesperger.

Water Street.

North side, between Deer Creek street and Canal.—Jacob Wolf, merchant. Waitz and Miller, shoe-makers, house owned by widow Patterson. Wm. Byerly, saddler, dwelling and shop. Mafield & Luckett's warehouse, owned by D. Adams. Yancy & Stickler, meat shop, owned by Dr. Rominger. A. Fultz, grocer. W. F. Clemson's grain and liquor warehouse, owned by D. Adams. Anderson & Co.'s packet office, same owner.

Between Walnut and Mulberry street.—Several houses belonging to Petersburg. M. Davis' house, McGinnis' hat shop. W. White's dwelling. P. Barrick do. N. Nichol's do. Mrs. Morroy's dwelling, owned by Jas. McClintock. Hin's dwelling. P. Shaw, West & Co.'s foundry and a small frame adjoining—a Rapier's hotel and two small buildings adjoining. Hancock's dwelling. Haas' brewery, owned by A. Miller. Bredt's dwelling. A large brick building, occupied by three families known as the Phillips' hotel, Stern's house not occupied.

Between Mulberry and Hickory.—G. J. May's dwelling—a T. McDougal's dwelling—all other buildings. G. V. Wheeland's house, occupied by three families. Houne's house, occupied by several families.

East of Bridge Street.—I James Baker's slaughter-house.

South side, between High and Walnut.—ADAMS' Brick—John Laird, tailor, Philip Klue, cooper, Mafield's dry goods store. J. F. Waddle, grocery—a J. H. Roads, dry goods store. Allen & Evans, hardware store. B Clinton House, J. Robinson. D. Adams' dry goods store, on corner.

Between Walnut and Paint. Straus & Bro's clothing store, corner. Keres's grocery. Lisa's grocery, owned by Hillhouse. M. Miller's shoe store and dwelling. J. Maddier, grocer. Rosenfield's tavern. Mrs. Bead's dwelling. M. Davis' clothing store; Zimmerman's grocery, owned by former. Mrs. Madeira's house, not occupied. H. Maddier, grocer. C. O. Joine, grocer, and canal collector, a large frame warehouse. D. Fulton, wholesale grocer, a new large brick warehouse owned by Judge Orr—a Holcomb & Co. wholesale grocers, a large frame warehouse. Linder's bakery. Aid's shoe shop. Markley's tin shop. Smith's shoe shop. meat shop. All small frames. Esq. Robinson's office, owned by Sosman. Sosman's bakery. James Clark & Son, wholesale grocers, buildings owned by Sosman. Charengbeiger, liquor and grocery dealer. Hein's grocery. A. Frazer & Co. provision establishment, owned by McFarland—a A. Baker's meat shop. Clinton & Peitsmeyer, grocers. T. Weekly's, saddler shop, building owned by Dr. Trimble. McGinnis' hat store, corner.

Between Paint and Mulberry.—J. May's coffee-house, corner. J. R. Allston, wholesale grocer. C. Hogen-shutz, grocer. Campbell's ware use, not occupied. Two dwellings owned by Mrs. Flyder. John Frautz's tavern. Gwin's dwelling and stone factory. Three old buildings owned by McLandburgh, occupied by several families—a McCoy's warehouse, filled with corn owned by George Wood. A brick dwelling, containing several families. Haskin's steel planing mill and shop. Railroad shop, owned by Sawyer. A building owned by Scholderer and Wolf, occupied as a Railroad office and dwelling. Mrs. Madeira's house, occupied by two families. Binney's grocery, house owned by Hitchens. Hitchen's dwelling, corner.

Between Mulberry and Hickory.—Browna's house, corner, occupied by two families. Desere's dwelling. Wm. H. Taylor's house, occupied by a family. McVey's dwelling. Diets' dwelling and cooper shop. Hitchen's dwelling—a

On the alley between Water and Short Water streets the stables of Eichenlaub, Beileison, Bauman, Shoulder, Johnson, Latters and Marsh.

Short Water Street.

South side between Mulberry and Hickory.—T. Marsh's dwelling, cooper shop, including all buildings on his lot.

K A small two-story brick building attached to the residence of Wm. Ross, the only house of any kind not burned in that square.

C Reliance Company's Engine.

* Bridges burned. † Houts burned.

‡ The abbreviation —a— where it occurs in the list, denotes alley.



Phoenix Number 4 Engine House, 1860. The house in the background was the residence of Edward Tiffin, Ohio's First Governor.

peaceable man and needing the leather, he thought that the best way of getting it, especially as they asked a "very reasonable price."

With the streets filled with half-crazed, shouting, crying people of all ages, confusion everywhere, articles of all kinds littering the sidewalks and being trampled under foot in the streets, it is no wonder that some persons, ordinarily good citizens, lost their poise for the time being. License took the place of order. Allowance might be made for the poor people who saw through wide open doors the things they needed so badly, about to be consumed by flames. Mr. James Welsh saw numbers of men and boys at Mr. Wilson's store in the Union Block, pulling off their own shoes, throwing them into the fire or the street and putting on new ones.

Mr. Mott Renick did not have so much to tell about the fire, but did remember the excitement created by the arrest of many looters. They wanted to hang one man who was caught red-handed. He said that the jail was packed that night like sardines in a box. The town militia was called out, for in the list of expenditures published is this item: "Paid German Guards for duty at jail, \$30."

James Sproat, when he saw that the fire was near his home, left the drug store and spent the afternoon saving other people's property and did not know that his father's store had burned until late that afternoon.

Perhaps the first woman to see the Big Fire was Mrs. M. Scott Cook, who was walking north on Walnut street and passed the alley on which the Watt Carpenter shop was located, just as the flames burst out of the door and windows. She was on her way to the dry goods store on the corner of Water, and when she hastened her steps and informed Mr. Turner that there was a large building on fire in the alley close by, Turner with a bland smile replied, "Yes, madam, this is the first of April." But the smile faded from his face and ten minutes later one would hardly have recognized the urbane, dignified Mr. Turner in the strenuous, bustling man who staggered under loads of valuable dry goods which he was throwing recklessly into the canal bed nearby.

Mrs. Elizabeth Treiber, an older sister of Leonard Berg, says that she was 16-years old and was then living at Mr. Wal-

ler Massie's house (28-30 W. Second St.). When the houses across the street caught fire, the Massies moved everything out the back way and went to Mr. Thomas James' house (58 W. Fifth St.).

Mrs. Treiber grew uneasy about her family, as she had not heard a word from them since the fire began, and about 4 o'clock started to look them up. She went down Fifth street to the canal, then up the towpath to Harman's tannery. A strange sight met her eyes here. She said it seemed like a lunatic asylum turned loose. There were hundreds of women and children and some men lying on bedding, blankets, etc., all along the river bank wherever there was room. Many were crying or moaning and others, with their heads in their hands, looking heartbroken but not saying a word.

In the midst of them she found her family and they had not saved a single thing! It was all her mother could do to get the three little boys away safely, and her father had tried to make sure that they would have something to eat, so he had thrown a pan of dough, just ready to bake into a half-filled flour barrel. Then he spent his time heading it and rolling it into the canal. When the water came in that night, it penetrated the barrel and spoiled the flour. Everybody then bought flour by the barrel as a barrel cost no more than a sack of flour does now.

When she came back to the James' house, she took the family with her and Mrs. James kept them until they got a room in a house on High street. Mrs. Henry Keim says: "I was twelve years old and was living with Mr. and Mrs. McFarland (152 W. Second St.) close to where the fire broke out. It started at noon when people were on their way to dinner. Many a table was spread and the food eaten by flames.

"Things were in greater confusion than during the recent flood (1913). Goods were loaded on wagons to be carried out of the city. Many loads were burned. Others were taken out in the country and never returned. I remember helping to carry away goods that had been thrown into the street from Smart and McFarland's Dry Goods store (18-20 W. Second St.). They were taken to a vacant lot near the corner of High and Second streets, until a room could be secured. Miss Baskerville gave up her school room, that it might be used as a store. After the fire, everybody took people in with them. I remember

my parents telling of the distress caused to a Jewish lady who was sharing their stove for cooking, when occasionally in the frying of pork, some of the pork grease would pop into her skillet.

Mr. George Sosman's bakery on West Water street was established June, 1824. His son, Frank, says that when it caught fire, his father pumped water to extinguish the flames until the pump itself took fire.

Mr. Ralph Farden seems to have noticed the fire on Water street more than anywhere else. Fraser's Warehouse was a busy place when he saw it. There were men throwing hams out into the street from all the windows, in the second and third stories, and other men grabbing them up and casting them into the dry bed of the canal or onto the towpath where, in less than an hour they were well cooked. It was estimated that Fraser and Company lost 16,500 hams.

One of the last buildings to burn was William Ross' house next to the Masonic Hall, which caught fire at about four o'clock. The fire had made great headway. Mrs. Ross was sitting on a sofa in the street across from where her home was burning. Mr. Dorman came along and asked her if there was anything in particular that she desired saved. She said that if it could be brought out without breaking she would like to have a large mirror in the parlor. Although nearly ten feet high, he got it out safely.

The only building of any kind in that square that did not burn that day was the milk house in the yard back of this Ross house, and it is there today.

Mrs. Effie Maderia said that their side and back yards were crowded with goods from the burnt district. Some woman, a stranger, rushed up and put into her hands a broiler on which was a half-cooked beef steak and asked her to take care of it.

This paper having been written to show the personal side of the fire, almost nothing has been said about the loss, insurance, course of the fire, of amount of money subscribed for sufferers, as all of these items were published in detail in the papers of that day. These papers are open for inspection in our public library.

However, it may be well to state in just a few words, that the loss was calculated to be half a million dollars. The area

burned was sixteen acres and was nearly all included in that section bounded by Deer Creek, Second, Mulberry and Water streets. The amount of money subscribed to the fire sufferers was \$16,418.47. This sum was distributed by a committee to the 163 sufferers, their shares being in proportion to their losses and ranging from \$1.00 to \$1,000. The foundry firm of Shaw and West, East Water street, was the only recipient getting the latter amount.

George Bohn, Sr., said that the mother of Joe Reiley, the tinner had brought with her from Germany two large, strong boxes. In one, she kept their best clothing. The fire appeared so suddenly that they had barely time to drag out one of the twin boxes and when opened later, it was found to be the wrong box. It was filled with corn cobs.

Malcolm Wesson has lived in Columbus for many years. He was born in 1841 in the old Academy here, his father being the Academy principal at that time. He was eleven years old in 1852. His father would not allow the children to leave their house that afternoon, but in the evening he took them to see the ruins.

What "Mack" did well remember was the gathering and selling of many kegs of burned nails to Wm. H. Reed, who ran the planing mill on East Water street for many years. The wooden kegs were, of course, burned and the nails were fused into a tangled mass of iron. Mr. Reed paid the boys one cent a pound for them. There were three hardware stores burned and one hundred kegs were destroyed. I remember that the back part of Miss Etta Allen's yard (139 W. Second St.) was filled with great quantities of them for many years afterward. I suppose that they finally rusted away and I can imagine that at some future time, someone will discover a rich vein of ore and amid great excitement new "diggings" will be started and mining companies promoted.

As one glances over the various accounts of the fire, it is evident that in two outstanding facts this fire differed from conflagrations generally. First, in the terror inspired, partly by the knowledge that there was no water with which to combat the flames and partly by the hurricane raging at that time. The water had been let out of the canal and the public cisterns had not been filled before it was done. It was, no doubt, somebody's

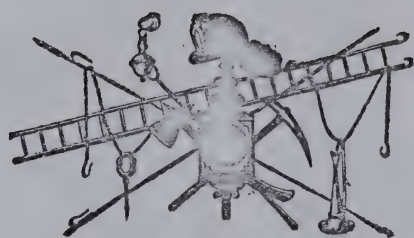
business to see to that, but he had neglected it. I heard my father who lost the savings of many years in that fire, say that he did not know and he did not want to know who that man was. The terror inspired by the hurricane was such that there were very few accounts which did not tell of the awful wind, especially in the stories of those who witnessed the horizontal wall of flame reach across Paint street and instantly set fire to every store on the opposite side of the streets.

The second fact shown was that this fire was no temporary misfortune, but was a set-back to the town for many years. Other towns in this region, 'way behind Chillicothe, sprang ahead and soon distanced it in size and prosperity and many years passed before it reached the place it had occupied before the fire.

Mr. Vaughters mentioned to me that Henry Pinto had told him long years after the fire that the insurance company he represented had never recouped themselves for the losses they had paid on accounts of our Big Fire.

And yet it might have been worse. Not a life was lost. If the Big Fire had started at midnight instead of noon, probably more of us would have exclaimed like Biddy McIntire, "the world is coming to an end!"





THE CHILlicoTHE FIRE DEPARTMENT

1845 — 1880

by

A. C. IRELAND

In early times, the means for extinguishing fires in this city was very meager. Water could be obtained only from wells and private cisterns, or from the Scioto river. One small fire engine and leather buckets were about the only fire apparatus. Property holders were required by ordinance to supply themselves with buckets, in number according to the value of their property. These buckets were marked with the owner's name, and were required to be kept hung up on porches or other convenient places ready for use. Fire wardens were appointed, whose duty it was to control and direct operations at fires, see that buckets and other apparatus were kept in repair and in proper place, and examine the construction of flues and the arrangement of stovepipes, with a view to guarding against danger. Colonel John Madeira and Mr. James Howard, two of the most respected citizens, acted for many years in that capacity, continuing their duties at fires, even after a volunteer department was well organized.

In looking over the old records of the city council, we noticed where it was made the duty of the marshal, "on the breaking out of a fire, to unlock the engine house, ring the court house bell, and cause 'fire!' to be cried in the streets."

The construction of the Ohio canal, and afterward the "Hydraulic," with its basin, gave additional advantages in the supply of water. These, and a large basin belonging to the Carson mill, on Fifth street, together with eight fire cisterns, ranging from five to eight hundred barrels each, form the present water supply, which will be augmented as occasion requires, either by the addition of other cisterns, or by water works.

In 1845, the fire department consisted of three companies, with two engines and a hook and ladder truck.

The Citizens company, No. 1, was composed of the old citizens, their engine being a "Sellers & Pennock" of Philadelphia—a suction engine, with horizontal double acting chamber, worked by end-levers operating the pump by a "bell-crank"

connection. It was not a handy machine, but still did good service in its day. This company also had a two-wheeled tender and one thousand feet of good leather hose.

The Rescue company, No. 2, comprised the younger part of the community. They had a small "Pat. Lyon" engine, of Philadelphia, worked by end-levers, chambers about four or five inches in diameter—not a suction engine, but supplied by buckets.

The Hook and Ladder company had quite a large and able membership, but their apparatus was of primitive style, being home-made. Still it was of good service, and, in the day of old frame houses and stables, was frequently brought into requisition.

About the year 1846, the city council purchased a new side-brake engine, eight-inch chamber, built by William Smith, of New York, and one thousand feet of leather hose. They had a two-wheeled tender built, and the new apparatus was given to the Rescue company. With this acquisition they increased in numbers and activity, and for many years, continued to perform valuable service.

After the Rescue was supplied with its new engine, the little "Pat. Lyon" was turned over to a new company, the Relief, No. 3, which was organized on the twenty-third of February, 1847, by citizens of the Third ward. This engine the company used for some years, when it was sold, the city supplying them first with a large, side-brake "Button" machine, and afterward with a piston steam-engine which, on the organization of the paid department, was turned over again to the city.

The following is a list of the charter members of this company:

Edward Adams
John F. Waddle
William H. Thompson
Thomas W. Summersett
A. Nebergall
E. G. Doan
G. Gessler
Nelson Boadley

Ferdinand Albright
William McCollister
William Cain
R. B. Veail
James Miller
John R. Allston
John M. Doty
Samuel Long
Abraham Doll

William L. Hiser
U. P. Wheaton
William B. Flood

J. W. Weir
J. T. Robinson
David Veail, Jr.

The Phoenix company, No. 4, was next organized by a number of German citizens, who purchased an engine in Germany. It was rather an old-fashioned affair, as compared with those of American build. The brass work was handsomely finished, but the style of machinery was antiquated—chambers about seven inches—a forcing engine only, like the “Pat. Lyon”, mentioned above. After using it for some years at a great disadvantage, they procured a suction engine, built by Shaw & West, machinists, of this city. But after running the two for some time, and finding it much more laborious, as it divided the effective force of the company, they disposed of both, and were supplied with a steam rotary engine, of Seneca Falls make, which has been in service thirteen years, and is part of the present department. (Ed. Note: 1880)

The Reliance company, No. 5, was founded on the ninth of January, 1851, and was in its day, one of the prominent institutions of the city. Composed of men of respectability, of stout physique, in the prime of manhood, drawn from the industrious classes, the very bone and sinew of the community, no wonder the citizens of that day could place reliance on their services in time of fire. The old Reliance was second to none. As the Company is now numbered among the things that were, and human muscle has, in the march of improvement, been compelled to succumb to steam, with its untiring iron arms, a short history of the company may not be uninteresting to the citizens generally, and, as some of the old “fire sharps” are still around, they will, no doubt, recall the days of the “red shirt” with pleasure. In the latter part of 1850, four of the then members of the “Rescue, No. 2,” at that time one of the most active companies, and one to which our citizens owe much for its good service, were consulting together on the propriety of establishing a new fire company to be located in the fourth ward. The result of their deliberations was the founding of the Reliance company, as stated above. A large number of the members of the Rescue residing in the fourth ward were members of the new company. The city council made an appropriation for the purchase of a hose carriage, hose, and about seven hundred dollars for an engine, and Major Welsh was authorized, on the part of

the city, to contract for same. The company proposed to the city to add a larger amount in order to get an engine of more capacity and better make, which the council acceded to, and money was raised by subscription, among the members and citizens generally, sufficient to get one of John Agnew's, of Philadelphia, best engines, at a cost of twelve hundred and seventy dollars. General James Ryan, councilman from the fourth ward, obtained an appropriation for a house, and Colonel Gilmore attended to legal business in obtaining a charter for the company; both of these gentlemen were elected honorary members.

On the arrival of the new engine and apparatus, the company could boast of a roll of one hundred able, uniformed men. This being the first company in the city to adopt a uniform, many a joke used to be told on the boys, by the citizens who were surprised to see them so quick at a fire, uniformed and equipped.

Parties were almost willing to be qualified as to their carrying their red shirts in their hats, to be ready for any emergency, and also that a member leaving church at an alarm of fire had actually been seen taking his red shirt out of his hat and hauling it over his head while yet in the sacred precincts of the sanctuary. At the Great Fire, April 1, 1852, the water being out of the canal, the Reliance was stationed on the canal banks, where the mud had been deposited by men engaged in cleaning the canal. The Rescue was supplying her from the old bed of the river. The fire at this time had caught at many places in the Fourth ward, where most of the members of the company resided, and many had left the engine to see their families. Suddenly from the large warehouse of Mr. John Marfield, filled with lard, pork, hams, etc. and only the width of the canal distant from the engine, burst out a sheet of flame with a terrific roar, and driven by the wind, which was blowing a gale at that time, directly across the engine, swept the men from the brakes. They tried to move her, but it was impossible, owing to the depth of the mud and fury of the fire, and had to leave her, but not until some of them had the clothes burnt off them. The engine burnt there as she stood, everything that was combustible being destroyed. Immediately after the fire, the remains of the machine were packed up and shipped to Mr. Agnew, and the engine was rebuilt in handsomer style than before, at a price of one thousand five hundred dollars, Mr. Agnew allowing the

company five hundred dollars for the machinery, the pumping apparatus being uninjured. The money the company raised by subscription among themselves, and citizens friendly to them. The engine was soon rebuilt, and has done valuable service, but of late years, the company has dropped off, and since the advent of steam-fire engines in the community, there is nothing to invite the "esprit de corps" of the old volunteer days, and so the company has been forced to disband. **1912461**

The founders of the company were:

A. C. Ireland
Washington Phillips
Andrew McDowell
Elijah Stevenson
E. P. Safford
Henry Sulzbacher

John Ewing
Abraham C. Conner
William Welsh
Daniel Thompson
Michael Kirsch
O. Harman
John Howard

At the time of the great fire the engine of the Citizens company was in the machine shop for repairs. The Phoenix, not having their suction engine built, was not of much service at such a fire. The Reliance was burnt about two o'clock P. M., which left the Rescue as the only available machine. After the fire had expanded its fury, both the Rescue and Phoenix were used in extinguishing the flames that still continued their ravages in the cellars of some of the large provision houses. The Citizens company, never having been supplied with new apparatus, and their numbers dwindling away, finally disbanded. The engine, being about worthless for fire purposes, was sold at auction, and purchased by Major William Welsh and broken up for old metal at his foundry and machine works. The "Button" engine, formerly belonging to the Relief company, was next given to another new company, the Enterprise, No. 6, organized by colored citizens of the Second ward. They had a good company, were very active and enthusiastic in the cause, and rendered efficient service for several years, up to the time of the disbanding of the volunteer department.

The Paid Steam department was organized by the city in the spring of 1879, and is composed as follows: Jacob Warner, chief engineer; (company No. 1 has charge of steamer, hose reel, one thousand feet rubber and one thousand five hundred

feet leather hose, and three horses) ; Gregory Studer, engineer; Jacob May, pipe-man; James Schafer, Arthur L. Hamilton, drivers.

This company is located on Mulberry street, between Second and Main, in a good two-story brick engine house, with stabling for the horses, sleeping and wash rooms for the men, storeroom, etc. The house is built with hose tower, alarm bell cupola, all arranged in the best manner. The harness is of the latest improvements for celerity of operation. The house for hook and ladder truck is located directly opposite, has one horse at present, but stabling for two, with second story for storage of hay, feed, etc.

Company No. 2 also has charge of steamer, hose reel, one thousand feet of rubber and fifteen hundred feet of leather hose, and is located in a house of the same plan as No. 1, situated on High street, between Chestnut and Mill. This machine is not at present housed. A new steamer is contracted for with the Ahren's manufacturing company, of Cincinnati, and will be completed in a few weeks. About the same time a fire alarm telegraph will be put up. A new hose carriage, four wheeled, is about completed, capable of carrying sixteen hundred feet of hose. On the arrival and testing of the new engine, horses will be procured and the whole department put into complete order. In the meantime the city has good protection with the present company No. 1, the men and horses of which are well drilled, and exhibit a proficiency in the performance of their duties, that would not be expected from the length of time they have been in practice. They have already rendered valuable service on several occasions, and by the time this reaches the public eye, we shall have a fire department that will compare favorably, in equipment and efficiency, with that of any city of its size in the country.

(Reprinted from Williams Brothers' *History of Ross and Highland Counties, Ohio—1880*)

CHRONOLOGY OF THE CHILlicothe FIRE DEPARTMENT

1820

In November, 1820, a disastrous fire occurred, which caused the organization of a fire department, which, as will be seen, was pretty extensive for that early day. Thomas James was appointed director; William Carson, Edward King, Robert G. Wilson, and William McFarland, assistants; Joseph Kerr, captain of the bucket men; James Clifford, first lieutenant; William Creighton, Jr., second lieutenant; John McCoy, captain of the property guard; John McLandburgh and James Miller, lieutenants; James Phillips, captain of hook and ladder and ax company; Richard Long, Adam Reister, and James Howard, lieutenants. It was made the duty of the marshal to appoint citizens each night to patrol the streets and prevent confusion in time of fire. (Reference: *Pioneer Record and Reminiscences of the Early Settlers and Settlement of Ross County, Ohio*. by Isaac J. Finley and Rufus Putnam. Cincinnati: 1871. p. 129).

1845

Citizens Fire Company, No. 1 organized. Engine house located on the north side of Main Street, west of Paint Street. The Hook and Ladder Company's house adjoined that of the Citizens Company.

Rescue Fire Company, No. 2 organized. Engine house located on the south side of Second Street, between Paint and Walnut Streets (No. 60 West Second Street).

1847

Relief Fire Company, No. 3 organized February 23, 1847. Engine house located on the east side of High Street, between Chestnut and Mill Streets.

c. 1850

Phoenix Fire Company, No. 4 organized. Engine house located on the north side of Water Street, between Park (Deer-creek) and High Streets. The minute-book of this Company for the period 1866-1873 (in the manuscript collection of the Ross County Historical Society) lists the following members: Conrad Studer, Louis Oberer, William Santo, August Kutschbach, August Bues, Franz Studer, Michael Dunner, Charles Wielman, August Friedrich, John K. Mursberg, Martin Gries-

heimer, August Rudman, Jacob Fink, Peter Stoffel, Carl Fromm, Wm. H. Mader, Philip Cronebach, Phillip Jacob Laesle, Joseph Hirn, John F. Krueck, Christian Geller, John Griesheimer, Wilhelm Weigand, Z. Erdmann, Heinrich Schwartz, Leonhard Amos, Franz Kleinmann, Franz Schaetzle, John Burklein, George Uhrig, Gustav A. Reihle, Wilhelm Weinacker, Joseph Faessler, Michael Reppel, John Cronebach, Dr. C. E. Wachenschwanz, Friedrich Funk, Heinrich M. Anesrhad, Ph. Kadel, Rud. Fuhr, Gottfried Vollmer, Philip Pfeifer, John Woltenweider, Michael Brendle, John George Ritter, Jacob Doster, Richard Rudmann, Adolf Schott, Max Maring, Wilhelm Stoll, Emanuel Deuschle, Jacob Stoll, Stephan Figelstahler, Karl F. Fender, Johann Schachtele, Philip Bogy, Philipp Griesheimer, Philipp Henninger, Jacob Mayer, George Buechler, Heinrich Dietz, Johannes Probst, Heinrich Sommer, Gottlieb Unverzagt, Joseph Bahr, Adam Roth, George Stroehle, Louis Horney, Philipp Uhrig, Henry Ritter, Louis Rieder, Ch. Sommer, Jacob Jacobs, Sig. Engelsmann, Charles Litterst, John Schwarzel, H. Schwenke, Jacob Schumacher, Franz Maurer, John R. Mechley, Louis Krick, Peter Schangel, Henry Burklein, Erhart Bumen, Christopher Huber, Leopold Spetnagel, Mathias Ingold, Wilhelm Christen, Conrad H. Reutinger, R. Wissler, G. Louis Foerster, John Kirchenschlager, John Kreuzberg, George Winter, Franz Strubel, B. Stoecklin, Crist Zurcher, John Veit, Peter Heibel, Adam Sohl, Jacob Kunzelmann, Conrad Richards, Gregor Studer, Jacob Knecht, John Pfeifer, Alexander Rieder, Benjamin Esker, Joseph Keller, Peter Griesheimer, Peter Ritter, J. H. Kirchenschlager, George Lautenklos, Herman Hofer, Geo. F. Gross, Geo. Grab, Fritz Messmer, Karl Bender, Louis Rieder, Gilbert Rieder, Simon Hechinger, Kasper Weigand, Johann Wurster, George Kegelmayer, H. Hangs, Frank Hellmann, Jacob Warner, Anton Meinfelder, Ernst Koch, Andres Kobelsberger, Johann Muehlig, Jacob Bauchle, John Huss, Johann Basler, Jacob Haas, J. Dickemann, Martin Loevich, Heinrich Keim, Carl Wellenreiter, Ludwig Merritt, Ferdinand Marzluft, Louis Schneider, Anton Alberty, Anton Blistain, William Poland, Martin Strubel, Hartman Schmidt, Adam Goerisch, James Poland, Adam Roehle, John Hess, Fried. Wolf, Henry Auerbach, August Richey, Wm. Meyer, John Brown, David Klein, H. A.

Hecht, Samuel Kilvert, George Uhrig, John Lang, Jacob Buchmiller, Adam Griesheimer, John Adler, Simon Hechinger, Joseph Hunn, Louis Lehmann.

1851

Reliance Fire Company, No. 5 organized January, 1851. Engine house located on Mulberry Street, between Second and Main Streets.

c. 1872

Enterprise Fire Company, No. 6 organized. Engine house located on the west side of Paint Street, between Main and Fourth Streets (rear of the Market House).

1879

Paid Steam Fire Department organized, Spring, 1879. Company No. 1 located on Mulberry Street, between Second and Main Streets. Company No. 2 located on High Street, between Chestnut and Mill Streets.



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